

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 10 and 19 have been amended.

No new matter is being presented, and approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 4-11, 13-20 AND 22-27 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(E) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY RAGHUNANDAN (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,721,785):

The rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-20 and 22-27 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

At pages 2-3, item 2, the Examiner states that Raghunandan, teaches a generating module executing a process of generating a group formed of the plurality of multicast target mail destination addresses in all of destination attributes, corresponding to the detection, at column 5, lines 60-67, column 6, lines 10-20 and column 2, lines 1-5.

In fact, Raghunandan discusses an email system capable of assigning an alias to a group of recipients who are frequently contacted "in order to facilitate identification and/or reduce the burden of repeatedly entering the individual email addresses. An alias may correspond to a group of email addresses and may further make reference to other aliases. In this manner a complex hierarchy of aliases can be established." (See column 1, line 64-column 2, line 4). However, the groups to which aliases are assigned are formed of destination addresses specific to one destination attribute (i.e., To: Cc:, Bcc: or Group:). (See column 6, lines 1-20).

In contrast to Raghunandan, in the present invention, the groups are formed of the plurality of multicast target mail destination addresses of *all* destination attributes, as recited in amended claims 1, 10 and 19 and depicted in Fig. 3. Therefore, the group names added by the adding module correspond to the groups formed of the plurality of multicast target mail destination addresses of *all* destination attributes, and not only to groups formed of addresses of each individual destination attribute.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 10 and 19, patently distinguish over the foregoing reference relied upon. The remaining rejected claims depend from claim 1, 10 or 19 and incorporate the patentable features thereof. Thus, dependent claims 2, 4-9, 11, 13-18 and 20 also patentably distinguish over Raghunandan.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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